

### Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 9 and 13 being independent. Claims 1, 3, 9, 11 and 13 have been amended herein. Claims 14-16 have been added herein.

Claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicants have reworded the language questioned by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph, rejection are requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,540,326 (Matsubara et al.). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Matsubara et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,390,586 (Takahashi et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of independent Claims 1, 9 and 13 recites, inter alia, producing, based on image data, printing data corresponding to each of printing elements under a predetermined condition through a color transformation process transforming image data to the printing data, with the printing elements differing in the sizes of dots to be formed, and converting the printing data into dot data for distributing a dot to a pixel, with the conversion being executed independently for and corresponding to each of the different sizes of dots.

Matsubara et al. relates to an ink jet recording apparatus including an MPU 11, gate array 14, head driver 15 and recording head 18. As understood by Applicants, Matsubara et al. discloses that printing is executed with different sizes of dots and an input signal is transformed to printing data by gate array 14 and MPU 11. However, this feature is directed to common data transformation executed in the printer. Matsubara et al. fails to disclose or suggest producing, based on image data, printing data corresponding to each of printing elements under a predetermined condition through a color transformation process transforming the image data to the printing data, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 9 and 13.

Thus, Matsubara et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Takahashi et al. relates to a recording apparatus having plural print buffers, but is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Matsubara et al. noted above with respect to independent Claims 1, 9 and 13.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 9 and 13 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 9 and 13. Dependent Claims 2-8, 10-12 and 14-16 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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